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# In The Nation

## Bill to protect secret agents backed

Washington (AP) — Representative Romano L. Mazzoli (D, Ky.) yesterday urged swift passage of legislation to outlaw unauthorized disclosure of the identities of U.S. covert intelligence agents stationed abroad.

Earlier this week, Mr. Mazzoli, chairman of the House intelligence subcommittee on legislation, joined Representative Edward P. Boland (D, Mass.), the full committee's chairman, and Representative J. Kenneth Robinson (R, Va.) in reintroducing the measure, formally called the Intelligence Identities Protection Act.

The bill was approved last year by the House Intelligence and Judiciary committees, but failed to get through Congress after it ran into opposition largely in the Senate.

If the bill becomes law, persons who intentionally disclose the identities of U.S. covert agents could be imprisoned for up to 10 years and fined a maximum of \$50,000.

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